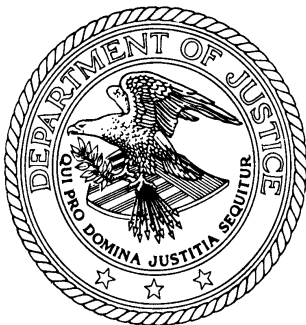


# NEWS RELEASE



*Office of the United States Attorney  
Western District of Louisiana*

**DONALD W. WASHINGTON**  
United States Attorney

---

United States Courthouse • 300 Fannin Street, Suite 3201 • Shreveport, Louisiana 71101-3068 • (318) 676-3600  
United States Courthouse • 800 Lafayette Street, Suite 2200 • Lafayette, Louisiana 70501-7206 • (337) 262-6618

---

**For Immediate Release**

**October 26, 2006**

[www.usdoj.gov/usao/law](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/law)

**Contact: Donald W. Washington (337-262-6618)**

**William J. Flanagan (318-676-3600)**

## **SEVERAL INDIVIDUALS INDICTED ON FEMA FRAUD CHARGES**

**Federal Government still investigating and prosecuting FEMA  
fraud cases one year after devastating hurricane**

LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA . . . United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced that four individuals were indicted this week and one charged by a Bill of Information on unrelated FEMA fraud charges. All defendants are charged with violation of Title 18, U.S. Code, Section 641, theft of public money, property, or records.

**Those charged include:**

NAME	AGE/ADDRESS	CHARGE
NOLAN BONNETT	Age 45 Lafayette, LA	Indicted for unlawfully receiving \$14,437.82 in U.S. funds for federal disaster relief.
MELISSA GIBSON	Age 39 Deridder, LA	Indicted for unlawfully receiving \$2,000 in U.S. funds for federal disaster relief.

<b>MONIQUE FOX</b>	<b>Age 31 Lake Charles, LA</b>	<b>Indicted for unlawfully receiving \$2,000 in U.S. funds for federal disaster relief.</b>
<b>FERNANDO GUILLORY</b>	<b>Age 43 Pine Bluff, AR</b>	<b>Indicted for unlawfully receiving \$2,000 in U.S. funds for federal disaster relief.</b>
<b>RASHONDA WILLIAMS</b>	<b>Age 28 Lafayette, LA</b>	<b>Bill of Information filed for unlawfully receiving \$2,000 in U.S. funds for federal disaster relief.</b>

According to the unrelated indictments, the defendants are charged with receiving U.S. Governments funds after submitting a false application to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for federal disaster assistance to which they were not entitled. Each defendant charged used the ill-gotten funds for personal use.

An indictment is merely an accusation and a defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. Defendants are entitled to a presumption of innocence under the law, and the government has the burden of proving every element of the charges beyond a reasonable doubt.

To date, the United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Louisiana has charged 35 defendants with violations related to FEMA relief funds, and more than 116 FEMA fraud investigations are on-going in the Western District of Louisiana.

In September 2005, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created the Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force, designed to deter, investigate and prosecute disaster-related federal crimes such as charity fraud, identity theft, procurement fraud and insurance fraud. The Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force - chaired by Assistant Attorney General Alice S. Fisher of the Criminal Division - includes members from the FBI, the Federal Trade Commission, the postal Inspector's Office, and the Executive Office for United States Attorneys, among others.

These cases were investigated by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Inspector General, and

the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Inspector General. The cases are being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Luke Walker.

# # # #